

# The Arc2Ax Link Tool

<http://www.nps.gov/akso/gis>  
NPS Alaska Region GIS Team



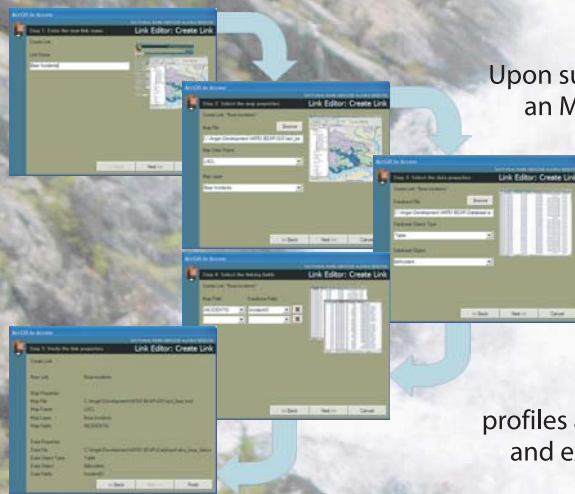
## What is Arc2Ax?

Arc2Ax is a tool that allows spatial data in ArcMap™ and related tabular data in Access™ to be queried against one another. While ArcMap™ easily allows tabular data to be linked through joins and relates there is no functionality for linking data displayed in queries, forms, and reports. Arc2Ax provides querying capability between ArcMap and Access™ that allows users to maintain tabular data with relational and referential integrity in a relational database and spatial feature data in any ArcGIS™ compatible format. Arc2Ax helps users work between these two products with related spatial and non-spatial data.



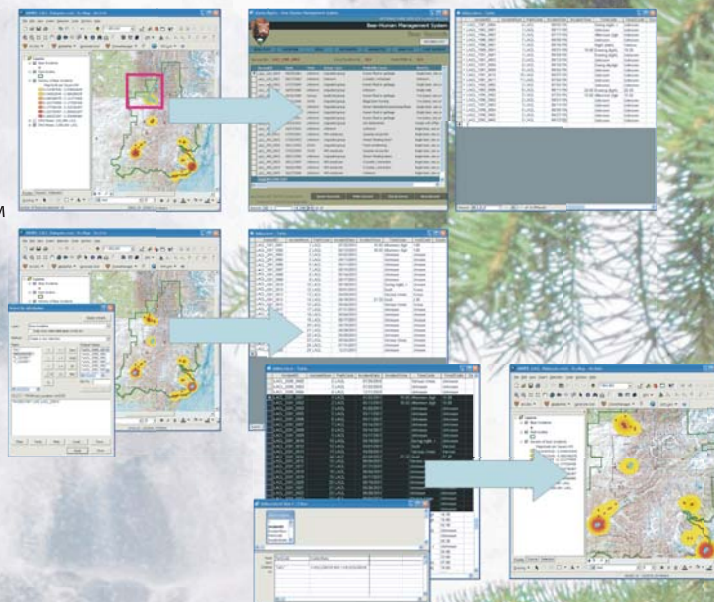
## How do I create an Arc2Ax link?

Upon successful installation, the Arc2Ax menu appears whenever an MXD, MDB, or other Access™ file is opened. The user is able to create unlimited link profiles that relate feature data to data in Access™ tables, queries, forms, and reports. A link profile is saved information that allows Arc2Ax to construct a connection between related spatial and non-spatial data. The user creates links through a wizard which collects and stores file names, object names, and field names. Arc2Ax handles multi-field primary keys by allowing up to eight related fields. Link profiles are stored in the computer's registry and can be imported and exported for sharing among multiple users and computers.



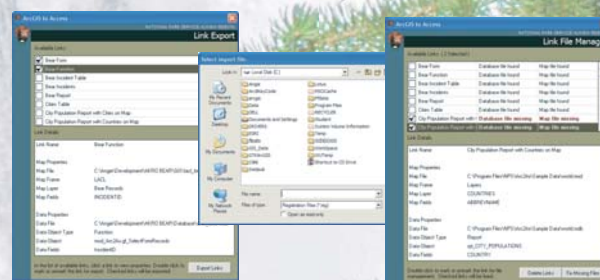
## How do I run an Arc2Ax link?

Links may be triggered from either ArcMap™ or Access™. The user selects features or records using any method available in the product, such as ArcMap™ Select by Location, or Access™ Filter, and then runs the active link(s). During this process, Arc2Ax retrieves the source dataset and translates the selected features or records into a query understood by the other product. The other product is then opened to either display related records in the table, query, form or report, or select and zoom to the related features in a map as identified in the link profile.



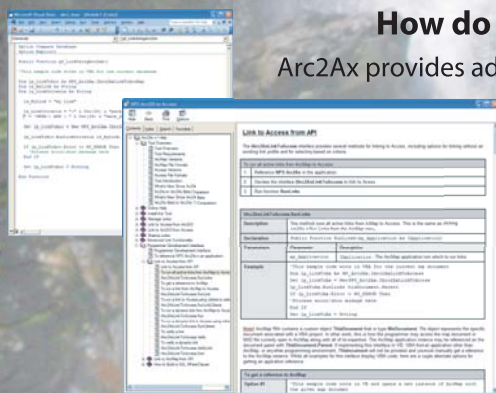
## How do I manage Arc2Ax links?

Arc2Ax provides a Link Manager to create, edit, copy, rename, and delete link profiles. The user performs each of these modifications through a wizard. Arc2Ax also provides a Link File Manager which allows the user to verify and clean-up existing links. This process checks for missing map documents and databases and lets the user fix broken links by updating the locations of these missing files or deleting multiple broken links at once.



## How do I integrate Arc2Ax into my own custom applications?

Arc2Ax provides advanced functionality that allows a programmer to customize the tool usage within applications. Two application development interfaces (APIs) have been exposed for accessing the functionality of Arc2Ax while bypassing the Arc2Ax front-end. This gives a developer of custom applications the ability to utilize Arc2Ax without the users knowing anything about the tool or its configuration. The online help system includes VB and VBA examples for implementing this functionality.



Hidden Falls, Grand Teton National Park  
Photo courtesy Jerry Megenty

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Download the Arc2Ax Link Tool at:  
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/arc2ax>

Questions?  
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